

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-07 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 DRC-01 EURE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8944

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17153

FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WITH
DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER

1. AMBASSADOR, WHO IS IN STUTTGART IN CONNECTION WITH INVEST IN USA SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER BY TELEPHONE AT LATTER'S REQUEST. LEBER EXPRESSED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH BREVITY OF PROPOSED VISIT TO BONN BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, STATING THAT IT WOULD ALMOST INEVITABLY CREATE PROBLEMS BOTH WITH PRESS AND WITH BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE WHICH MEETS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK. IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE QUESTION WOULD BE RAISED WHETHER SUCH A SHORT VISIT WAS NOT A FURTHER EXPRESSION OF US DISPLEASURE WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND WEAKEN LEBER'S PERSONAL POSITION. DEFENSE MINISTER WOULD MUCH PREFER, IF LENGTH OF VISIT CANNOT BE INCREASED, THAT IT BE POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER DATE WHEN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CAN SPEND MORE TIME IN BONN. LEBER ADDED THAT, WHEN SECRETARY SCHLESINGER COMES TO GERMANY, APART FROM EXTENSIVE TALKS WHICH HE WOULD WISH TO HAVE IN BONN, HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE
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SECRETARY VISIT BUNDESWEHR AS WELL AS AMERICAN UNITS

WHICH HE ASSUMES SECRETARY WOULD ALSO DESIRE TO SEE.

2. COMMENT: LEBER IS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED THAT IT SEEMS A VISIT CANNOT BE ARRANGED NEXT WEEK BUT HOPES SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT BONN IN NEAR FUTURE. ONE POSSIBLE OCCASION WOULD BE WEHRKUNDE CONFERENCE, WHICH NORMALLY TAKES PLACE IN EARLY FEBRUARY IN MUNICH, AND WHICH WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MINISTER LEBER. CONFERENCE COULD OFFER SUITABLE FORUM FOR AN APPROPRIATE POLICY STATEMENT AND AT THE SAME TIME INITIATE A DAY OR DAY AND A HALF VISIT WITH LEBER AND TO US AND FRG MILITARY UNITS.
HILLENBRAND

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